



Embassy of the United States of America

Public Affairs Section

For more information please contact: Phone 216-8122, Fax 216-8622

Embassy website: <http://bolivia.usembassy.gov>

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Ambassador Goldberg Delivers Donation of Motorcycles and Medical Equipment in Tarija

On February 11, U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia Philip S. Goldberg delivered four motorcycles and medical equipment to five municipalities of the department of Tarija. The donation, estimated at \$25,000 dollars, will support the extension of public health service coverage, the improvement of healthcare information handling, and the service of mobile healthcare units to remote areas in the department of Tarija.

At the delivery ceremony, the Ambassador also announced that the U.S. Government had created a fund to work in close coordination with the municipalities in order to co-finance health projects. In the first stage of this effort, the United States will contribute \$236,000 for five projects in healthcare infrastructure development. The department of Tarija will also disburse counterpart funds.

These projects directly support the Bolivian Government's National Development Plan and the priorities outlined by the Bolivian Ministry of Health to improve the management of local clinics and hospitals, as well as to improve their service quality. The projects also provide the local municipalities with opportunities to focus on healthcare priorities through programs that require municipal counterpart funds.

Aiming at contributing to the improvement of the health and quality of living of Bolivian rural people, USAID has been working in ten of the eleven municipalities of the department of Tarija. These initiatives seek to offer the rural communities, especially those located in remote areas, means of transportation for regular healthcare attention and the ability to modernize the management of healthcare information, logistics, and medicine handling.